

## **Message# 169 - 12-19-2021 - I John 4 - Who is a Christian?**

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Good morning everyone. Thank you for taking the time to listen to the message this morning.

I mentioned last week that Michael had provided his latest Michael's Minute. This one is called "It's Your Fault" and it discusses the absurd blame game that is being played on the "unvaccinated." It's excellent, timely, and if you haven't read it yet, I hope you will go to the website and click on Michael's Minutes, then click on "It's Your Fault."

I had planned on making a statement about the Josh Duggar fiasco last week, but decided to wait until I felt like I had a little more time. I've actually debated back and forth as to whether I even wanted to spend any time on it. It really has nothing whatsoever to do with us - with true followers of Christ - but since we have been on this theme of what is a true Christianity and Christianity versus churchianity - I think I will make a brief comment on an observation that I made regarding the whole thing.

First off, I'll say that what Josh was accused of - downloading and possessing child pornography is a horrible thing. There's no question about that and I am in no way defending what he was accused of. But I still have a really big problem with the whole thing.

And, my problem is mainly that once again, the voice of God is muffed by those who insist on playing "church" - something that the God of the Bible has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with. It's not a matter that God was kicked out of the "church" - He was never a part of it to begin with.

I want to read something to you. This is from the Dillard family website. It is from one of Josh's sisters. This was released after Josh was found guilty in his "trial." Quote:

<https://www.dillardfamily.com/2021/12/dillard-family-statement-on-josh-duggar-verdict-today/>

*Today was difficult for our family. Our hearts go out to the victims of child abuse or any kind of exploitation. We are thankful for the hard work of law enforcement, including investigators, forensic analysts, prosecutors, and all others involved who save kids and hold accountable those responsible for their abuse.*

Here's the first place I want to stop.

*We are thankful for the hard work of law enforcement, including investigators, forensic analysts, prosecutors, and all others involved who save kids and hold accountable those responsible for their abuse.*

I have seen absolutely nothing, anywhere, in any of these articles online, that says that “law enforcement captured the scumbags who actually raped and tortured the children.” If they said that “law enforcement” had captured the filth who did the taping of the abuse - then - you know what? - I'd stand right up there and say, “Way to go. Now, when's the death penalty going to be carried out for those responsible?” But no. There is no mention anywhere about the people - if you can call them that - who actually did the kidnapping, raping, and torturing, taping of the children involved.

All these people did was go after the “low hanging fruit.” And again, downloading and possessing, viewing this stuff is wrong. No doubt about that. But pat yourself on the back when you actually catch the creeps who committed the atrocious acts in the first place.

These “churchians” sit here praising and worshiping “law enforcement” and the “greatest 'justice system on earth'” because they captured someone who was viewing the garbage on his computer?

How about this from the Dallas Morning News, from 2017?

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/crime/2017/01/17/the-fbi-ran-a-child-porn-site-to-catch-predators-and-now-the-accused-are-crying-foul/>

*The FBI ran a child porn site to catch predators, and now the accused are crying foul. Daryl Pawlak, a Burleson natural gas worker, is trying to get child porn charges against him dismissed by arguing that the FBI violated the law by hacking into his computer. When Daryl Glenn Pawlak logged into a large child pornography website and downloaded images using his work computer, he was charged with receipt and possession of child pornography.*

*The operator of the website that was exploiting children, however, was not arrested.*

*That's because it was the FBI. And federal prosecutors are defending the agency's*

*decision to secretly hijack and peddle child porn for two weeks as part of a sting operation.*

*During that time, tens of thousands of images of child pornography were uploaded to the site.*

*"Not only was the government the largest distributor of child pornography ... it was also the largest exploiter of children," Pawlak's attorney said in a court filing. "This conduct is the essence of outrageousness, and a serious need for deterrence exists."*

*The case has ignited debate among legal scholars and defense attorneys about internet privacy and the FBI's decision to keep such a website up and running while more children were harmed.*

*Dozens of defense attorneys have filed motions to suppress evidence from the controversial child pornography sting, called Operation Pacifier. In some cases, federal judges have granted those motions. But most attempts to get charges thrown out have failed, legal experts say, even though some judges have ruled that the government violated the law and acted inappropriately.*

Wow. What an understatement that is.

*Joining legal challenges nationwide, Pawlak's attorneys are trying to get the charges dismissed, arguing that the government went too far by using a single warrant in Virginia to hack the computers of people all over the country, including his client.*

*The American Civil Liberties Union compared it to Operation Fast and Furious, a failed sting operation run by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives beginning in 2009 that resulted in 2,000 firearms winding up in the hands of criminals.*

*In that case, ATF allowed people to illegally buy the guns to traffic to Mexico in the hopes of tracking them to Mexican drug cartel leaders. But that didn't happen, and instead the agency lost track of the guns, including two that were found at the scene of the 2010 murder of a U.S. Border Patrol agent.*

Again. I am not at all defending Josh Duggar or this other guy from the Dallas Morning News. The reality is - let the dead bury the dead, as far as I'm concerned. None of this is Godly or Biblical in any form. I'm talking about this because I want to remind us again

that this world is absolutely crazy. It is a continuance of what we see from I John 5 - regarding those who reject the fact that Jesus was the Christ - Jesus Christ is the King - and everyone who refuses this belief - is part of "and the whole world lieth in wickedness."

Here we have the u.s. "government" running what was said was the largest child pornography website - and the largest exploiter of children - and these "churchians" are ever so quick to throw their own brother under the bus and praise and worship "law enforcement" for saving the kids. The churchians continue with their statement concerning Josh Duggar. Quote:

*Nobody is above the law. It applies equally to everybody, no matter your wealth, status, associations, gender, race, or any other factor. Today, the people of the Western District of Arkansas made that clear in their verdict. As a Christian, we believe we are all equal at the foot of the cross, and, likewise, we are all equal under the law. End quote.*

What? What in the world are they talking about? Equal under what law? God's Law or man's law? That is as clear as can be what they're talking about. They are talking about man's law. And the ignorance that "everyone is equal under it" is astounding, to say the least. Everyone knows that in the u.s. - under their "law" - there is no equality. There is a standard for the peons, there is a standard for the poor, there is a standard for the rich, there is a standard for those who work in "law enforcement" and there is a standard for the politicians. That is totally ridiculous. They continued:

*Jesus warned his disciples, "...[b]eware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Therefore, whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops." (Luke 12:1-3).*

Well, that much they got right.

If you read through the comments on the website, it's sickening how many other "churchians" heap praise on "law enforcement" for capturing Josh Duggar. Why is any kind of pornography even "legal" in the u.s.? Why is it "legal" to produce pornography in the u.s.? The pornographers argued that prohibiting it is against the CON - it's against the "first amendment." So, once again, the Laws, the Commandments of God have

been removed from the land - in favor of man's commandments - the CONstitution.

Again, the biggest reason why I even spoke about this is to keep this in our minds that the actions of men's little g "governments" are rarely - if every - Biblical. And let's never fall for the false paradigm that anything they do is Godly. They are incapable of it.

Remember a few weeks ago - or months - who knows - time just flies by - but I warned us again about not falling for the "great victory" the churchians were claiming with the new Texas abortion "law?" I told you that when the u.s. "supreme court" allows that to stand - it will be no time - before other "states" begin using that model against people.

<https://www.kcra.com/article/newsom-bill-allow-private-citizens-sue-gun-manufacturers-distributors/38493407#>

This past week, Gavin Newsome commissioned some "legislators" in California to begin crafting - let's a good word - crafting - just add the word witch in front of that - they began witchcrafting some "legislation" that would allow "citizens" to sue gun manufacturers in attempt to get back around the fact that the "courts" had recently struck down California's "gun laws."

It will be no time now, before "states" witchcraft legislation that allows "citizens to sue other people" who have not taken the jab. Or, sue people who say something that someone else doesn't like. Or sue people who quote the Bible. Or, just fill in the blank.

All these people do is open up a can of words that leads to one mess after another with their "legislation." They simply cannot think of all the ramifications and impacts of their "laws" until they start getting forced on people - then it becomes apparent - real quick - that they are just like dogs or cats chasing their tails. This is what happens when crazy people - people who do not believe in the Laws of God - take to themselves the "power" to define - or redefine good and evil. It ends up as insanity. And we are seeing it now - maybe even clearer than we have in most of our lifetimes.

There is supposed to be one Lawbook. One Lawgiver. One Law. That Law book is about an inch and a half thick. It should be very easy for most people to read it. But, as I said last week when Sam asked me to call in to his show - I bet that most people have never read the book - not even once. Just like all those CONstitutionalists out there who claim it is such a great, Godly document - most of those have never even read that document, either. But everyone's an authority on both documents. Amazing how that works.

We have been spending several weeks now, maybe months, starting with the book of I John, then heading from there to other passages of Scripture and hitting on other points as we go. But the central theme has been - what is a Christian? I've been yelling and screaming from the mountaintops - that there is a vast difference between a Christian and a churchian. Churchians are not Christians. In fact, very few people in this world today are Christians.

Christians are people who believe that Jesus - the Jesus that came in the first century - He fulfilled the Law and the Prophets - just like the Bible says. At His resurrection - as clearly as anything could ever be seen from the Scriptures - He took the promised throne of David. I've showed you before - let's look at it again - please. Turn to Acts chapter 1. Let's read a lot of Scripture this morning. I love these opening chapters of the book of Acts. They are just so full of truths - truths that most people have missed - and missing these truths is many times the difference between a man becoming a Christian - and a man becoming a churchian. Verse 1, chapter 1.

[1] The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

[2] Until the day in which He was taken up, after that He through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom He had chosen:

[3] To whom also He shewed Himself alive after His passion (that is His death, burial and resurrection) by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

So many times people just read verses like this one - and just completely miss the meaning. Jesus, the Scripture says, was speaking to them about His Government. He was talking to them about His Kingdom - the Kingdom of God. He was talking to them about Government.

Today, if people say, "let's talk about government." They mean the "laws and statues" that determine the way they live. They are talking about their kingdom. Their policies. The things that affect their lives - and determine the way they live. These people saw the death. They saw the burial. Then, they saw the resurrection of Christ - of Jesus - from the dead. Would you think about this for a minute? How many funerals have you been to in this life? How many times have you been with someone who was sick and then days later they were gone? Then you went to a funeral? Well, friends, never, not one time have any of us ever witnessed what the disciples did. After the funeral, we go to the gravesite. We see the casket lowered into the grave. And then we go home. And

we never see that person again.

These people saw Jesus. They ate with Jesus. They talked with Jesus. They ministered with Jesus. They lived with Jesus. They had one-on-one private conversations with Him. They had two and two, three and three, twelve and twelve face conversations with Him. Some of them were even closer to Jesus than others. But they all saw Him face to face. They knew - from the very beginning - some from the very first day they met Him -

“This is He of Whom Moses and the prophets did write, this Jesus, the King of the Judahites.”

They were there when thousands of people lined the streets of Jerusalem scattering palm leaves on the ground - which was a symbol of royalty and victory.

*The palm branch is a symbol of victory, triumph, peace, and eternal life originating in the ancient Near East and Mediterranean world. The palm (Phoenix) was sacred in Mesopotamian religions, and in ancient Egypt represented immortality. In Judaism, the lulav, a closed frond of the date palm is part of the festival of Sukkot. A palm branch was awarded to victorious athletes in ancient Greece, and a palm frond or the tree itself is one of the most common attributes of Victory personified in ancient Rome.*

*In Christianity, the palm branch is associated with Jesus' Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday, when, according to John's gospel, "they took palm branches and went out to meet Him" (12:13 HCSB). Additionally, the palm has meaning in Christian iconography, representing victory, i.e. the victory of the spirit over the flesh, Revelation 7:9.*

*Since a victory signals an end to a conflict or competition, the palm developed into a symbol of peace, a meaning it can have in Islam,[1] where it is often associated with Paradise.*

*The palm appears on several flags or seals representing countries or other places, with the coconut palm associated with the tropics. End quote.*

They were there when the people cried out, Hosanna to the King. Then, they were there when the churchmen turned it all against Him and turned Him into a common criminal because, “Whosoever maketh Himself a King, is not the friend of Caesar.”

They watched as He was forced to stand trial because He forbade the people to give

tribute to Caesar, saying that He Himself was Christ a King.

Then, they saw the cruel, vicious treatment that the Roman soldiers did to Him at the urging of the churchmen in Jerusalem. They watched Him die on a cross with the mocking inscription placed above His head,

“This is Jesus, the King of the Judahites.”

After the Roman soldier had thrust His side through with a spear, they watched Him take what looked like His last physical breath. And when it was over, they took what appeared to be His lifeless body and they put it in a grave. Then, they went their own ways. Just like all of us would do after watching a loved one or a friend being placed in a grave.

But unlike any experience we have ever had - while our friends and loved-ones bodies are buried never to be seen again - in just three short days - Jesus rose from the dead and walked out of that tomb and was rejoined with His disciples - minus one.

[3] To whom also He shewed Himself alive after His passion (that is His death, burial and resurrection) by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

At that point in the lives of Peter, James and John. Of Mary and Martha and the others not necessarily named - when Jesus was talking to them about the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God - can there be any question with any of us - that those people believed that Jesus was the Christ - the King of the Judahites? This King was the greatest King to ever step foot on God's earth. Do you think for one second that these men were afraid to follow Jesus again? Do you think these people were scared of the Pharisees? Were scared of the high priest? Scared of Pilate? Scared of the Romans? Jesus had just made an open shew - a public spectacle - the people that murdered Him had mocked Him with

And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.



Do you think those apostles were one bit scared of any one who had done those horrible things to Jesus just 40 days prior to this? If one of your friends or loved ones that you had just gone to the gravesite three days ago - if they came back to life and walked into your house - what would your reaction be? If they had made all sorts of claims about themselves prior to their “death” - if they had told you they were the Son of God and that even if men would crucify Him - but then would rise again the third day. If that happened to you - what would your reaction be? Well, I'll tell you what it would be. It would be exactly the same reaction that these people had.

They would be so thoroughly on fire for Christ, they would so thoroughly immersed into Christ - every single thing in their life would be consumed with and revolve around their knowledge of Christ. They would be remembering every single thing He had ever said to them - and that would be the way they would be conforming their lives to live. They would be remembering all His teachings, all His commands, and they would be applying them to their lives. Nothing would prevent them from living the way Jesus said to live. He would absolutely be the King - the One and Only King - the One and Only Potentate in their lives. And not only that - but they would spend the rest of their natural days telling everyone else about it. And that's what they did. And they turned their generation - their world - upside down because of it. Acts 1, verse 4.

[4] And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

[5] For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

I've reminded you many times of what that simple little word “but” means. We see it everywhere. It means that the next thing I'm going to tell you is of greater importance than what I just said to you.

John said - “All I'm doing is baptizing you with H2O water - but there's a greater baptism coming. Jesus - the baptism of Jesus - being fully immersed into Jesus Christ is with fire and with the Holy Ghost.

Alright. Here we are again. John baptized with H2O - but you are going to be baptized with something else. John's H2O water baptism was a type and shadow of another baptism that was coming. Read it for yourself again and again and again if you have to. In this verse - verse 5 - how many baptisms are there? There are two. And John's

baptism was not the only baptism of the Old Covenant World. There were many more than John's. John himself said he had a baptism and He Whose shoes I am not worthy to unlatch - He has a baptism, too.

I have known hundreds, probably thousands, maybe even ten thousands, of people who have been H2O water baptized by one method or another - maybe by all the different methods - and there are many - but they are no more fully immersed into Jesus the Christ - than the man in the moon. Put yourself in the shoes of these men and women who lived during the time of Christ. They saw firsthand all the things that I described a few minutes ago - I will tell you that after seeing all they witnessed - they were so thoroughly immersed into Jesus Christ - they could barely take a breath without a thought of this Jesus coming into their minds. Every single thing in their life was yielded to and given over to Jesus Christ. Every step they took. Every thing they did - was consumed with the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Every Law they kept - was consumed with the Law of God. He was their All in All. That's what being fully immersed into Jesus Christ is. It's hearing the voice of the Great Shepherd and muting out all other voices.

I can't show you from the Bible what H2O water baptism looks like and neither can any of you. In fact, there's really one pretty good idea of what H2O water baptism in the Old Covenant World looks like and I'm not sure I've ever heard anyone say that H2O water baptism should be performed like this. Even though there's more details in this one, maybe that any other. Turn to II Kings chapter 5. Let's read the whole chapter and begin in verse 1. As soon as we get started, you'll remember the story.

[1] Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him Yahweh had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper.

[2] And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

[3] And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

[4] And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel.

[5] And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment.

[6] And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is

come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy.

Now watch this. This is great.

[7] And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

[8] And it was so, when Elisha the man of God

Now listen. When Elisha the man of God....apparently at that time, the king of Israel was not a man of God.

had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

Do you see what is going on here? The king of Israel was mad. He thought Naaman was coming to spread leprosy. But that's not what was going on here at all. So Elisha - the prophet - the prophet - the one who was prophesying of things in the future - said - "Just send Naaman to me. I know what to do with him." Verse 9.

[9] So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.

[10] And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.

There is something hugely important here. Elisha told Naaman to go wash - that is the Hebrew equivalent of baptize - Go, Naaman and baptize yourself in the river Jordan. There was a specific H2O water source that Elisha wanted Naaman to go to. And that's because this baptism was a type and shadow of being immersed into Christ. It wasn't just any water. It was the river Jordan. Now watch this:

[11] But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of Yahweh his God,

Yahweh wasn't Naaman's god - Yahweh was Elisha's God!!

and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.

[12] Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.

No, Naaman. Not hardly. You see the river Jordan was a type and shadow of the Living Water that would some day be - Jesus the Christ. The Living Water that when men take of that water, they will never thirst again. Naaman's baptism was not a typical H2O water baptism in the Old Covenant World. There was no leper requirement to wash in the river Jordan - that I can recall - maybe there was - but I can't recall. This was specific for Naaman. But Naaman wanted an easy baptism.

Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not baptize in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.

No, Naaman. You may not baptize in just any water. You must be fully immersed into the Living Water which is a type and shadow of the Promised Messiah that was coming. That's why Elisha - the prophet - was the one here. Why not the priest? Why not go to the temple for cleansing? Why not sacrifice lambs? Why the prophet? Verse 13.

[13] And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?

Or, baptize and be clean.

[14] Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

This is one of the very few times in the whole Bible where a good description of H2O water baptism is shown. And, to this day, among the "churches" and the "synagogues" I've never heard of H2O water baptism performed by dipping seven times. And, doing it by yourself.

Friends, I believe there is a reason why the Bible does not provide better clues to what H2O water baptism is supposed to look like. We've got all these different "churches"

who say that there's all these forms of baptisms - sprinkling, pouring, dipping, immersing. But what does the Bible say? Did Elisha baptize Naaman? Doesn't look that way. This looks like something that Naaman ended up doing all by himself.

I cannot take my Bible and show anyone what H2O water baptism looked like in the Old Covenant World - beyond this chapter in II Kings 5 referencing Naama. There are some who say that certain words - incantations - must be spoken at someone's "baptism" or else it wasn't done the right way. That isn't Biblical, either. There are some who say that there is an age requirement for when baptism is supposed to take place. That isn't Biblical either. I can't show you water H2O water baptism from the Old Covenant world looks like - but I can absolutely show you what it looks like when someone has been fully immersed into Jesus Christ. Continue with Naaman, verse 15.

[15] And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

Yeah, friends, you know when someone has been fully immersed into Jesus Christ when there testimony is that there is no God in the world except for the God of Israel.

[16] But he said, As Yahweh liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused.

[17] And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto Yahweh.

There you see what happens when someone is fully immersed into Jesus Christ. They stop worshipping and serving other gods. Remember, gods means rulers, judges and magistrates.

[18] In this thing Yahweh pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, Yahweh pardon thy servant in this thing.

[19] And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way.

[20] But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as Yahweh liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

[21] So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well?

[22] And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.

[23] And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him.

[24] And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed.

[25] But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.

[26] And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants?

[27] The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

This was a really big deal that Elisha said he would not take anything from Naaman for Naaman being cleansed. This whole story is a type and shadow of being immersed into the Living Water which is Jesus Christ. Turn to Revelation 21:6.

[6] And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Turn over to Revelation chapter 22.

[17] And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

This is why Elisha made such a big deal out of not taking anything from Naaman after Naaman was baptized to get rid of his leprosy. After Naaman was converted to say there is no other god but the God of Israel.

Now, let's go back to Acts chapter 1. We left off in verse 6.

[6] When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

No. Not quite yet. There was still some more things yet to go. For instance, "This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."

There were still quite a few more things that needed to take place before the Kingdom of God was fully established. For instance, the Gospel still needed to be preached to the rest of the world. Then, shall the end come. Verse 7.

[7] And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power.

Again, there was still some unfinished work to be done in that generation. But...

[8] But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Then, remember the Words of Christ from Matthew 24, verse 14. We don't need to turn there, I would think by now, all of us have it memorized:

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Wasn't time yet, but it was close. Now verse 9.

[9] And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

[10] And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Friends, there is absolutely no reason not to believe this happened exactly the way we are reading it. I do not believe this is symbolic. I don't believe it is esoteric. I believe this happened exactly the way the text says. Now verse 11.

[11] Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner

as ye have seen Him go into heaven.

I absolutely believe in the literal return of Jesus Christ - this Jesus Christ of the first century - to those people that the promise was made. I don't believe there is any reason not to believe this is a literal promise and something that literally happened. The text is not difficult. They stood there watching as He ascended UP - UP - into heaven. And then the angel told them He would return in the same manner in which He left. There's no reason not to believe this. There are some out there - well meaning men - who think that this language is symbolic. I just don't see it that way. Verse 12.

[12] Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

[13] And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

[14] These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

[15] And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

[16] Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

[17] For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

[18] Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

[19] And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.

[20] For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.

[21] Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

[22] Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

I'm pretty sure I have asked you this before. If so, bear with me. It's vitally important.

Beginning from the baptism of John.



I'm pretty sure I've asked you this before. But if so, bear with me, we need to go through it again. Beginning with the time John baptized Jesus. Why was Jesus baptized? And was it an H2O water baptism? Yes it was. But was Jesus water baptized for the remission of sins? No, He was not. You cannot say that Jesus Himself was H2O water baptized and that is an example for us. Jesus Himself was H2O water baptized - we should be, too. Jesus was H2O water baptized as a part of the Old Covenant ritual water baptism - one of many many many baptisms - and it was performed at the age of 30 for those men who were entering into the service of the temple. This was a ritual washing. It was H2O. And it is why Jesus was baptized. Verse 23, Acts 1.

[23] And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

[24] And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

[25] That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

[26] And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

## **Acts.2**

[1] And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

[2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

[3] And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, - like as of fire - and it sat upon each of them.

[4] And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

[5] And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

[6] Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

[7] And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

[8] And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

[9] Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

[10] Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

[11] Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

That's what "speaking in tongues" was.

[12] And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

[13] Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

[14] But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

Listen to me, Peter is saying. I'm begging you. Listen to me.

[15] For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

We've seen this a thousand times already. But please pay very close attention, again. This is the difference between a man woman boy or girl being a Christian, or being a churchian. What someone believes about the phrase "the last days" determines whether they are a Christian or not. If someone gets this wrong - they will not be a Christian. They will be a churchian maybe - and there is no salvation in churchianity. This is vitally important that we get this right.

[16] But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

Friends, that language is not tough. That is not hard to understand. Look at Wycliffe, Tyndale, Coverdale, Geneva - it's all the same language. It's not hard. Even the Good News Translation isn't hard. It says this:

14 Then Peter stood up with the other eleven apostles and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, listen to me and let me tell you what this means. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose; it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 Instead, this is what the prophet Joel spoke about: 17 "This is what I will do in the last days, God says: I

will pour out my Spirit on everyone. Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message; your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams.

Instead, this is what the prophet Joel spoke about: 17 "This is what I will do in the last days,

How can that be difficult to understand? Even for the churchians, I don't get it. Peter is saying just as clearly as anything can possibly be said - THE DAYS THEY WERE LIVING IN - WERE THE LAST DAYS.

Brethren, if we get that wrong - we are not Christians. Churchians, maybe, Christians no. Verse 17.

[17] And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

[18] And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

[19] And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

[20] The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

[21] And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

[22] Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth,

This is a very specific Jesus. This is the Jesus of the first century.

a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

[23] Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Now. Everything we've said from this beginning of our time this morning, has brought us to right here. If we do not get this right - we are not Christians. Christians get this right. Churchians miss it. Verse 24.

[24] Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it.

[25] For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

[26] Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

[27] Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

[28] Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

Now remember, this is Peter preaching on the Day of Pentecost. Shortly after the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Shortly after His ascension into heaven. And this is what Peter said about Jesus the Christ - Jesus of Nazareth - Jesus Christ.

[29] Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

Wait a minute. Why are we talking about David, Peter? Let's talk about Jesus. Why do we need to talk about David? It's because there was a promise made to David concerning David's throne. And it was the most important promise that God had made with Israel - from the time of the promise unto Christ. It was concerning the throne of David and the promise to David that he would sit on that throne forever. But the promise was not for David to sit on David's throne. It was for the Promised Messiah to sit on David's throne. The Promised Messiah was Jesus of Nazareth - Jesus the Christ - the King - the Anointed One - and if we don't get this right - we have missed it.

Christians have this right. Churchians do not. Christians are not churchians, churchians are not Christians. Until this simple truth becomes preached to the masses - the masses will never have the opportunity to become Christians. They will stay as churchians - thinking they have eternal life - when they do not. Eternal life is a gift to people who embrace Jesus as King. No one else gets the gift. The gift is only given to people who embrace that Jesus the Christ came in the flesh. Jesus the King came in the flesh. He is not a coming king. He is not a coming messiah for the jews. The King already came in the flesh in the first century and did everything He was supposed to do. There is nothing left for Him to do.

What's left is for people living on this earth to embrace the King and His Kingdom and renounce all earthly citizenships and friendships and partnerships and allegiances and CONstitutions - and laws and statues and treaties made in pursuance thereof - and be fully immersed into the Jesus Christ that came in the flesh in the first century. Now - one of the very most important verses in our Bibles, verse 30.

[30] Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

[31] **He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ**, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

Friends, how can anything be any clearer than that?

**He (David) seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ**, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was the single greatest event in the history of mankind. How can we not see this? How can anyone not see that? Jesus was laying in a tomb for three days. His seemingly lifeless body lay there with the physical signs of torture and unspeakable abuse. A crown of thorns crammed into His skull. Nails piercing His hands and feet. A spear thrust into His side. Beatings on His bare back. He - for all intents and purposes - everyone thought - was dead. At His crucifixion, an earthquake took place. Many Old Covenant saints raised from the graves and were seen in Jerusalem. As much as I would want to - I am fully incapable of describing the execution of Christ - let alone His miraculous - death defying resurrection from the dead. The resurrection of Christ from the grave is the single greatest event in the history of mankind and the Bible - as clearly as anything ever found in the Bible - says that the fulfillment of the promise to David was the resurrection of Christ.

Yet, every single "church" and "synagogue" in existence today says that the Davidic Covenant of the Messiah taking the throne of David is yet to occur. They say it is unfulfilled Bible prophecy.

Friends ONLY Christians believe that Jesus the Christ has already fulfilled the Davidic Covenant. If you are one who does not believe that the Davidic Covenant has already been fulfilled - I just can't I won't sugar coat it - I can't make it palpable - I have to say it like it is - you may be a churchian - you may be the best churchian the world has ever known - but you are not a Christian. You are not in Christ. You are lost. In fact, while you may have been thinking in your mind and heart for a long time that you are in Jesus - it simply is not the case. You are mistaken.

[30] Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, He would raise up Christ to sit on His throne;

[31] He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that His soul was not left in hell, neither His flesh did see corruption.

If a man woman boy or girl believes that the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant is yet in the future - that individual has denied that Jesus the Christ came in the flesh. Listen friends, the ignorant worship of God is not sufficient in the New Covenant World.

C.I. Scofield, with his devilish, satanic futurism theology, paid for and puffed by Cecil Rhodes and Andrew Carnegie - swindled the known religious world of their time into believing that the Davidic Covenant - "the earth-rule of messiah" -is what Scofield called it - was something that had never occurred. This is the most important reason why I say over and over and over - a man is not in Christ if he adheres to futurism.

Futurism says that the Davidic Covenant has never taken place. Type in a search simply called Davidic Covenant. You will have to search page after page after page and maybe - just maybe - you will find someone who says that the Davidic Covenant was fulfilled with the resurrection of Christ. Hopefully, the rankings for [www.godsendusmen.com](http://www.godsendusmen.com) have moved up and people might find this truth a little easier than in the past.

If Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled the Davidic Covenant with His resurrection from the dead, then that means that not only is Jesus Christ the King of kings and Lord of lords, but He is the last of the Kings that God allows for His Creation. Find me a man woman boy or girl who believes that - and has placed their sole allegiance in the King and God of Israel - who publicly confesses as Naaman did - I will not bow down or serve any other God than the God of Israel - and there - you will find a Christian.

Find me a man woman boy or girl who preaches futurism and a coming king. There, you will find a churchian. And churchians are not Christians. Christians are not churchians.

He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.